Foreign Markets for Surplus Timber.

346. **MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, when he was in England in connection with the British Empire Exhibition, was commissioned to explore the possibility of finding a market in London for the disposal of our surplus timber; and

(*b*) if so, whether he has made any report of his activities there, and when the same will be placed before the House?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Director of Agriculture and Fisheries was not specially commissioned to explore the possibility of finding a market in London for Travancore timber. He was instructed before he left Travancore to study the market conditions in England and find out how far we could develop trade in our products, including timber.

(*b*) While in England, the Director made enquiries about the demand for Travancore timber there and reported that Messrs. Howard Brothers and Co., Ltd., offered to act as agents for the sale of Travancore timber in London. But enquiries with the firm showed that only blackwood logs of prime quality of particular dimensions without flaw were wanted, and as this was not a paying proposition, the matter was dropped.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, South*): May I know from the Member whether, apart from the question of his being *specially* commissioned, the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries was *commissioned* or not?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): He was not specially deputed for that purpose.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, South*): My question was whether he was *commissioned* or not?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): He was not *specially* commissioned for this work.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, South*): Apart from the question of his being *specially* commissioned, may I know whether he was *commissioned* or not?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I do not understand the question.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, South*): My question is whether the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, when he was in England in connection with the British Empire Exhibition, was commissioned to explore the possibility of finding a market in London for the disposal of our surplus timber.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): He was not specially *commissioned* for this purpose.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, So*
Was he commissioned or not?

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MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): He was instructed to find out also markets for our surplus timber.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, South*): Am I to understand that he was not commissioned?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): It is clear from the answer that he was instructed also to find markets for our timber, if possible.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, South*): It is not clear from the answer whether he was commissioned or not.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): How does the Member differentiate between '*commissioned*' and '*instructed*'?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, South*): Whether there is difference between the words or not, may I know whether he was commissioned or not?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): He was instructed to look into this matter also.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, South*): My question is whether he was commissioned or not.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I do not understand the question. Will the Member kindly explain it?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, South*) May I know from the Member whether the Director of Agriculture studied the condition of the market in any place other than London?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): He made enquiries in London.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, South*): It is stated in the answer that he was instructed to study the market conditions in England. My question is whether he was commissioned to explore the possibility of finding a market in London for the disposal of our surplus timber. My supplementary question is whether the Director of Agriculture studied the conditions of the market in any place in England other than London.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): London being the capital of England he made enquiries connected with the several markets of England in London itself.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Knowing that London is the capital of England, I ask whether he studied the condition of the market of any place in England other than London.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): He did not make enquiries in the interior of the country. He enquired in London itself about the condition of the several markets of England.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Is it with a view to avoid the relinquishment of our valuable timber at [illegible]al prices that he was instructed to find out markets there?

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MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): We were not selling our timber for nominal prices.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : Is the Member aware of the statement made by the Dewan in his address to the Assembly about this matter ; and if so, may I know whether that is correct or this?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : I have no information now. I claim notice.

Purchase of Land for Tenmalai Depôt.

347. **MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR** (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*) : Will the Government be pleased to state how many acres of land were purchased for the site for the Tenmalai Forest Depôt and the price paid for the same?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): 28·52 acres of land were purchased in 1085 for the Tenmalai Depôt site at a cost of Rs. 3,744-14-6.

Preferential Treatment to Backward Communities in Service.

348. **MR. R. PADMANABHAN** (*Nominated*) : (*a*) Are the Government aware that there are a good many unemployed graduates belonging to the educationally backward communities who are denied entertainment in public service?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether it is their policy to accord preferential treatment to such backward communities in the matter of entertainment in public service ;

(ii) if so, whether this policy is being strictly followed in the matter of appointments in all departments, especially in the Secretariat and the Account Office ; and

(iii) whether they have recently ruled that seniority among acting hands in the Secretariat and the Account Office should be determined by the date of first entertainment in the service?

(*c*) Has the above rule affected the seniority of acting Ezhava clerks in the Account Office and the Secretariat?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to modify the above rule so that it may not stand in the way of according preferential treatment to the backward communities of the State?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The Government are aware that there are many unemployed graduates in the State, but have no information about their communal distribution.

(*b*) (i) The policy of the Government is that efficiency should be the paramount consideration in recruitment to the public service and that applications for appointments from members of communities which are backward in education should be given favourable treatment if it can be done without sacrifice of efficiency.

(ii) The Government presume that this is being done.

(iii) The answer is in the affirmative.

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